



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

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BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

May 1, 2012

The Honorable Ray Lahood
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Lahood, Secretary Napolitano, and Chairman Genachowski:

Our military men and women receive the best training in the world – and they prove their skills on the battlefield every day. Despite the fact that veterans have considerable training and experience acquired through years of military service, post-9/11 veterans' unemployment is at 10.3%, 2 points higher than the national average.

We must do a better job at helping veterans who are struggling to find jobs.

I've filed a bill, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, directing Federal agencies to recognize military training and skills when certifying veterans for Federal licenses. Many servicemembers with specialized skills find that when they leave the military, they are required to spend time and money to go through duplicative training and certification for jobs they successfully executed while in the military. This prevents veterans from quickly integrating into the workforce.

The Defense Business Board, an independent advisory board, recently recommended that the Secretary of Defense implement a service-wide concurrent credentialing program for the troops. I'm asking for your help because your agencies certify federal occupations for which there is a close military equivalent. In most cases, military training meets or exceeds the requirements for Federal credentialing. I ask that you work closely with the Secretary of Defense to determine opportunities to expedite credentialing for servicemembers so that qualified veterans can find employment quickly.

Veterans returning home have already performed the most difficult and dangerous jobs out there. This is a way we can ease their transition back into civilian life, and remove some of the obstacles in their way.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter regarding our veterans who are struggling to find jobs. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and have asked our Chief Human Capital Officer to respond. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Julius Genachowski", is written over a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the right side of the page.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 17, 2012

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter requesting our support to expedite credentialing for service members to facilitate quick employment. The Commission recognizes that military service training is valuable and pertinent to Federal employment, and we do not impose credential requirements. The Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau routinely hires veterans for our Watch Officers at our Operations Center and our High Frequency Direction Finding Center. The training provided by the military makes them especially well suited for these positions. In addition, the Commission has been a strong supporter of the Wounded Warrior and Operation Warfighter programs by offering transitional work opportunities. We are proud to report that we recently hired a service member from the Wounded Warrior program for a permanent position in our Gettysburg, Pennsylvania facility.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Bonita Tingley
Chief Human Capital Officer
Office of Managing Director